

WHEN Wycombe Wanderers stormed into a 4-1 half-time lead in Saturday's Berks and Bucks Senior Cup second round tie, it looked as though Hungerford would be swamped in the remaining 45 minutes. But the Hellenic League club pulled out all the stops to win the half 1-0 and give the Blues many embarrassing moments.

In the end, Hungerford won a moral victory. And had they converted two early chances in the second half we might well have been travelling north tonight for a replay. The visitors, who join Division 2 of the Isthmian

## Wycombe Wanderers 4, Hungerford Town 2 REPORT BY STUART EARP

League next season, deserve full credit for a footballing performance that looked way above Hellenic League standard.

Wycombe were a strange mixture. In the first 45 minutes they played some lovely football on a difficult surface and for once they turned their pressure into goals. John Priestley, who has had his critics in the past, returned to the side to give a gutsy midfield performance which he capped with a superb goal. Tony Horseman, in for Dylan Evans, showed the sort of skill and composure that suggests he should be a regular in the team.

These two players were the pick of the side on Saturday for their consistency. Others, like Paul Birdseye and Graham

Mackenzie, faded badly in the second half, while the Blues back four had one of their poorest games for a long time, although Birdseye was suffering from a first half injury.

Both Alan Phillips and Keith Mead were troubled by the pace and skill of the Hungerford front runners while John Ashton, who looks a fine prospect, gave Birdseye a thoroughly uncomfortable afternoon. Often in the second half Wanderers defence was caught for speed by the excellent running of Chris Gwynn and Dave MacMahon, who supported the front men brilliantly.

### FINE SAVES

In the end, however, Hungerford's extra effort in the second half almost took its toll. They inevitably ran out of steam in the last 15 minutes

and it was here that goalkeeper Pat Mooney came to the rescue. He pulled off fine saves from Mead, Horseman and Mackenzie while his handling was near faultless.

Hungerford treated this game as Wycombe would an F.A. Cup tie. They spent the morning at Bisham Abbey in preparation and had a short warm up before kick off. At the start however, they looked a little overawed.

Wanderers went ahead after 12 minutes with the first of four fine goals. Bob Davies' long cross from the bottom flank was half cleared to the edge of the box. Phillips and Mackenzie were both in line for a shot and perhaps wisely, the latter took responsibility. Bending the ball on the outside of his boot, 'Jock' left Mooney rooted to his spot with the perfect finish.

Hungerford were quick to counter and Ian Farr almost scored when Peter Spittle couldn't hold Mead's firm back pass. The ball went for a corner and from this, Sid Webb made a run into the box where he was tripped by Horseman — of all people! It was only the hint of a challenge but referee Chaffer had no doubts about the penalty which Dave Ingram duly slotted home.

After 20 minutes Horseman atoned for his error. He was brought down by Gwynn inside the box for an obvious penalty but the referee awarded an indirect free kick. Although the Hungerford defensive wall almost filled the goal, Horseman's flighted chip was measured to perfection, going in-off the underside of the bar.

### BEST GOAL

Wanderers slowly began to assert their superiority with Mackenzie, Howard Kennedy and Priestley dominating midfield. The third goal, the best in my opinion, came after 33 minutes. Horseman started the move inside his own half. Kennedy Priestley and Horseman were all involved in a marvellous move stretching 50 yards and Priestley cleverly placed his shot between keeper and upright. Not a single visitor touched the ball en route.

Six minutes later Hungerford looked dead and buried when Wycombe scored the fourth. Derek Harris laid on this one for Kennedy with a superb turn on the bye-line. Kennedy got up well at the far post to head home with Webb getting a touch on the ball before it crossed the line. Kennedy claimed the goal, however.

Hungerford might have been excused for giving up the ghost after the first half but to their great credit, they fought their way back into the game helped by Wycombe's over-confidence. The early goal they wanted came after 53 minutes. Andy Young beat Mead and found Ingram who slipped the ball for Gwynn to tuck home with the defence caught by the speed of the move.

Four minutes later MacMahon ran fully 45 yards to take Young's cross but he side footed wide with only Spittle to beat. For a time Wanderers were struggling. They began to give the ball away at the back and in midfield. At this stage Hungerford looked more like the side leading 4-2.

But Town couldn't break through and Wycombe gradually regained their composure. Mooney saved superbly from Mead's drive and then held Horseman's 20 yard effort. Just before full-time Ashton sent Spittle full length to remind Hungerford of what might have been.

**WYCOMBE:** P. Spittle; P. Birdseye, K. Mead, A. Phillips; R. Davies; G. Mackenzie, J. Priestley, H. Kennedy; A. Horseman, D. Harris, M. Hollifield. Subs: D. Evans, R. Day (not used).

**HUNGERFORD:** P. Mooney; S. Webb, I. Farnill, N. Matthews, T. Swain; C. Gwynn (sub M. Farnill 85 mins); D. MacMahon, I. Farr; D. Ingram, A. Young, J. Ashton. Sub J. Stickland (not used).

Referee: R. Chaffer.

**Half-time:** 4-1. **Goalscorers:** Wycombe — Mackenzie (12), Horseman (21), Priestley (33), Kennedy (39). **Hungerford** — Ingram pen (18), Gwynn (53).

Attendance: 850.

## LONG WAIT

WYCOMBE Wanderers' supporters now have a staggering seven week wait until the Blues next play an Isthmian League game at Loakes Park.

Away to Leatherhead this week, Wycombe have no games arranged over the Christmas holiday and their next match is at Slough in the League on December 31. On January 7 they travel to Tooting while on January 14 they make the trip to Bridgend in the F.A. Trophy. On January 21 they return to Slough in the County Senior Cup and then on January 28 they are home at last against Hitchin.

Wycombe's Youth team, which has shown much improved form recently, should add more points to their total tomorrow (Wednesday) night when they entertain Wokingham at Loakes Park. Wanderers have already won 3-0 at Wokingham this season.

### Friendly off

WYCOMBE Wanderers' proposed game at home to Chesham tonight (Tuesday) in the Shaw and Kilburn League, has been postponed. The Blues have not arranged another mid-week game.

## Wanderers away to

## Slough

WYCOMBE Wanderers, whose luck in recent Berks and Bucks Senior Cup draws has been appalling, must travel to Wexham Park to play bogey side Slough in this season's quarter-finals to be played on Saturday, January 21, writes Michael Knox.

This is Wycombe's 12th away draw out of the last 13, the exception being Saturday's match at Loakes Park when they defeated Hungerford 4-2. This is the worst possible draw for the Blues who recently lost at home to their near neighbours in an Isthmian League encounter.

There has been some suspicion amongst Wycombe fans that the dice have been loaded against them. But I can vouchsafe for

this draw as it was made immediately after Chalfont St. Peter's 5-2 victory over Flackwell Heath on Saturday. The man, if any, Wycombe should blame is the Chalfont treasurer Ted Brown who drew their number out of the hat immediately after Slough's!

Chalfont, themselves face a tricky visit to their close rivals Amersham Town at sloping Spratley's Meadow. Saints manager Keith Molton was unhappy with the draw.

His first reaction was, "It could prove an awkward tie for us as Amersham must be a much improved side this season. I would have preferred Chesham United at home."

Amersham boss Richard Jerome, who has master-minded Magpies Improvement — they have also reached the last 64 in the F.A. Vase — said he was happy to have ground advantage.

Chesham United, who recorded the biggest victory of the round with a 7-1 success over Wantage, now entertain other Hellenic League opposition in Didcot, 4-1 conquerors of Marlow. The other quarter-final sees Burnham or Wokingham at home to Newbury.